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KRISTEN WIIG STICKS TO HER GUNS

The actress talks about her latest no-nonsense indie. 16-17

76ers set to tip off another tumultuous season. 26

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ADJUNCTS RISING

Part-time professors at Temple University are facing a vote for unionization, which the school opposes. 6-7

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TENTATIVE BUDGET DEAL

1 A U.S. budget and debt ceiling deal headed toward quick action in Congress on Tuesday as lawmakers rushed to avert yet another fiscal standoff, which threatened to push the federal government into an unprecedented default early next month. REUTERS

BODY FOUND ON FARM

2 A farmer harvesting a field in west-central Minnesota found remains believed to be those of an 18-year-old college student missing for nearly two weeks, authorities said Tuesday. Laura Ann Schwendemann, a freshman at the University of Minnesota, Morris, was last seen on the evening of Oct. 14 at a gas station in Alexandria, Minnesota, in a car with a man who is now a focus of the investigation into her disappearance. REUTERS

DRUGSTORE DEAL

3 Drugstore chain Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. said it would acquire smaller peer Rite Aid Corp. for $17.2 billion including acquired debt. The $9-a-share deal would combine the second- and third-largest U.S. drugstore chains by sales, creating the largest U.S. retail pharmacy chain in numbers of stores. REUTERS

INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC GAMES

7 Terezinha Guilhermina of Brazil competes in the women's 100m T11 heats during the morning session on day six of the International Paralympic Committee Athletics World Championships at Suhaim Bin Hamad Stadium Tuesday in Doha, Qatar.

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

HASTERT TO PLEA GUILTY

4 Former U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert is expected to plead guilty on Wednesday in a hush-money case stemming from allegations of sexual misconduct from decades ago. Hastert, 73, was charged by federal prosecutors in May with trying to hide large cash transactions as part of a payoff scheme and lying about it to the FBI. REUTERS

TWITTER SHARES FALL

5 Twitter shares fell 12 percent as the microblogging company gave a disappointing revenue forecast and reported slower user growth than expected, a sign that more time is needed for a turnaround. The company Tuesday forecast fourth-quarter revenue within a range of $695 million and $710 million, well below analysts' average estimate of $739.7 million. Twitter had 320 million average active monthly users in the third quarter, up from 316 million in the prior quarter, missing analysts' expectations of 324 million. REUTERS

GM RECALLS 1.3M CARS

6 General Motors Co. said it is recalling about 1.3 million older sedans and coupes in the United States to fix oil leakages that pose a fire hazard. The company said drops of oil may be deposited on the hot exhaust manifold through hard braking, possibly leading to engine-compartment fires. REUTERS

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Nutter calls for end to School Reform Commission in city

The exiting mayor said Philly schools need local control.

DAN KELLEY
@MetroPhilly
dan.kelley@metro.us

The School Reform Commission's 15-year tenure at the helm of Philadelphia's education system should end, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter said Tuesday.

"Returning local control means voters know who to hold accountable for education outcomes," Nutter said.

Nutter made the comments to muted applause at the forum hosted by WHYY in what could be his last major policy speech as mayor.

Because his term ends in just a few months, it's unlikely Nutter would quarterback such a change, but he laid out the broad outlines of a plan that, if followed, would see the return of a local school board by September 2017.

That would include major legislative changes in Harrisburg that would change the state's education funding formula. The district would also need to make changes to stabilize its finances.

Mayor Michael Nutter
CHARLES MOSTOLLER

The School Reform Commission was established in 2001 after a state takeover of Philadelphia schools amid a funding crisis and low educational outcomes. The governor appoints three members, the mayor two.

If there were a school board, the mayor would appoint all nine members.

But Nutter said any reforms should spread accountability around, giving the City Council the ability to appoint four of nine members.

Nutter said he spent every day of the last eight years working on education issues.

He said the district has made strides in increasing the graduation rates of students who have been in contact with the juvenile justice system and in foster care.

But he said disparities in education are still far too great. He said that in the city's wealthiest neighborhoods, 30 percent of students go to the city's top schools. In the poorest neighborhood, that figure is 4 percent.

He gave a list of other reforms that could improve educational outcomes.

Nutter said the biggest single thing schools could do to improve is establish parent advisory boards that can raise money and give staff advice on setting priorities.

Some of those groups — like those at Andrew Jackson Elementary and Henry C. Lea — have made huge strides in attracting families who hadn't considered public schools.

Nutter offered this advice to the city's next mayor: "Set your own new, ambitious educational goals. Ones you have to strive for and work every day to make a reality."

Park's 'spaceship' closed after fire

The famed spaceship of LOVE Park, officially known as the Fairmount Park Welcome Center, was closed Tuesday after an early morning fire. As a result, there will be no food trucks in the park Wednesday. Reports say fire crews responded around 3 a.m. Tuesday morning to a small blaze in a ventilation unit.
CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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BRIEF

GOP investigating lottery for voters

The Philadelphia Citizen, a nonprofit news organization that says it is dedicated to finding solutions to civic problems, announced last week it would give $10,000 to a randomly selected Philadelphia voter.

The organization said it offered the lottery to draw attention to, and reverse, the city's abysmally low turnout in mayoral elections, which have seen voter turnout rates fall to 29 percent in 2007 from 61 percent in 1991.

That drew the ire of the Pennsylvania GOP, in part because an increased turnout in heavily-Democratic Philadelphia could have an impact on statewide judicial races.

Pennsylvania GOP spokeswoman Megan Sweeney said the party's lawyers are looking into whether this lottery violates the law.

"I thought they were joking when I saw it," Sweeney said.

Larry Platt, a co-founder of the Citizen, said it's true, there is something a bit unseemly about using a lottery to drive turnout. But he said the news organization is nonpartisan is designed to drive civic engagement.

"This is a radical thing," Platt said. "It does feel a little icky."

Kevin Greenberg, a elections lawyer who examined the legality of the lottery for Platt, said it complied with Pennsylvania law.

It is illegal to pay for someone to vote for a specific person. But simply paying people to vote? That's fine, Greenberg said.

"There's no question that Philadelphia exercising its right to vote is going to effect outcomes that are good for Philadelphia," Greenberg said. DAN KELLEY

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Adjunct professors and their supporters walked through Temple University campus Monday to rally interest in their attempts to unionize. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Temple adjuncts prepare for union vote

Part-time professors will soon be voting on unionization.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

A state labor board recently greenlighted a vote by part-time faculty at the city's biggest university on joining a union.

"Job security, guaranteed pay increases, a voice in our department, affordable health care options, class caps, office space," listed Ryan Eckes, 36, an adjunct professor of English at Temple University and supporter of the union proposal. "These are all things that can be negotiated."

As the Temple Owls football team are enjoying their best season ever and talks are ongoing about a $100 million on-campus football stadium, the school's roughly 1,400 adjunct professors are hoping unionization could raise their fortunes as well.

Adjuncts previously voted to authorize unionization in 2014. But Temple disputed the vote and brought the matter before the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board (PLRB) in Harrisburg. Last month, the PLRB dismissed Temple's objections and ordered a new vote. Ballots will be mailed to Temple adjuncts Nov. 9 and are due back by the end of the month.

Temple does not support the move, which it called a "merger" of adjuncts into the Temple Association of University Professionals (TAUP), the union representing about 1,400 full-time faculty.

"Temple believes that merger is a bad idea for students, the university and for both adjuncts and full-time faculty," said Sharon Boyle, associate vice president for human resources at Temple.

"Temple's adjuncts, working directly with university administrators, have made substantial progress in recent times including an 8% increase to minimum base salary and availability of multi-semester appointments," Boyle said. "Temple would like to continue this direct engagement, without in-

terference by a conflicted union."

A letter to faculty from Provost Hai-Lung Dai obtained by Metro announcing the PLRB decision pointed out that full-time TAUP members were not able to vote on whether adjuncts should join — and citing "differences" between the two types of teachers, said "merging" the unions "does not make sense."

> *"It's about the way we get treated at Temple."*
> Maggie Avener, adjunct professor of math at Temple

But Temple professor and TAUP President Art Hochner said he doesn't see any conflict. He said the university is disseminating "fairy tales to scare people."

"A year ago, the full-time faculty settled on a new contract with the university," Hochner said. "Then they turned around and act like we're some kind of monster that is going to tear the university apart. It doesn't make sense."

Adjunct professors nationwide have been organizing in recent years for better working conditions and unionization. While possessing similar or equal qualification to full-time professors, adjuncts are hired and paid on a by-course basis and can be fired with little or no notice. Meanwhile, universities are hiring more adjuncts than ever. At Temple, they make up about half the undergraduate faculty.

"They're running a campaign of false information. They regard us as cheap labor," said Eckes, who has taught for 10 years and saw his courseload drop from two courses at Temple to one this semester. He has made up for the loss in income by taking on more freelance work.

"If 51 percent plus one of us vote yes, then we win," he said. "Then the administration has to negotiate a contract with us."

Open Records director wins tussle with Wolf

High court slaps down firing by Wolf.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The state budget is still up in the air, but a smaller feud has been resolved — and it's a loss for Gov. Tom Wolf.

This morning, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania overruled Wolf's firing of Erik Arneson, the executive director of the state Office of Open Records.

The court affirmed a decision by an appeals court that deemed Wolf overstepped his authority by firing Arneson, and ordered Arneson returned to office.

"Affirmed. I like the sound of that word," Arneson tweeted this morning. The court's decision stated the OOR is a "unique, independent agency."

Office of Open Records Director Erik Arneson, above, and Gov. Tom Wolf, middle right. PROVIDED/CHARLES MOSTOLLER

"I believe the Office of Open Records must be independent to work as it was intended, and I'm thrilled the Supreme Court agreed."

Arneson

Arneson, former spokesman for state Sen. Dominic Pileggi (R-Chester and Delaware counties) was appointed to a six-year term at the $140,000-a-year job Jan. 13 by former Gov. Tom Corbett just days before Wolf took office.

Wolf fired Arneson Jan. 20, the day he was sworn in as governor. Arneson immediately protested that a governor didn't have the authority to fire an OOR director.

Arneson argued that legislation that created the agency — which was formed to release certain state records to the public and maintain government transparency — protected the director from at-will firings by a governor. Arneson kept going into work at the office.

At the time, Wolf said the last-minute appointment by Corbett had not been "transparent." Arneson denounced the firing as a "nuclear assault on the independence" of the OOR. Arneson and the Senate Republican Caucus quickly sued Wolf to get Arneson's job back. After the Commonwealth Court ruled in Arneson's favor in June, Wolf allowed Arneson to officially return to work in June.

Now the matter is settled in the state's highest court. Supreme Court justices Thomas Saylor, Michael Eakin and Max Baer, all Republicans, voted in favor of Arneson. Only Justice Debra Todd, a Democrat, dissented, finding that Wolf acted within his executive authority.

"I believe the Office of Open Records must be independent to work as it was intended, and I'm thrilled the Supreme Court agreed," Arneson wrote on his blog. "I'm excited to continue working as the head of this office. It's an incredible team."

Wolf's office released a statement saying it "looks forward" to work with Arneson.

"The Wolf administration looks forward to working with Mr. Arneson to promote transparency," the statement said.

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Apple revenue jumps 22 percent, iPhone sales surge

Many analysts believe that China is poised to replace the United States as Apple's biggest market.

The Apple iPhone GETTY IMAGES

Apple reported higher-than-expected quarterly revenue and profit as sales of iPhones surged 36 percent, driven by the launch of the 6S and 6S Plus models last month.

The world's largest company by market value said Tuesday it sold about 48.05 million iPhones in the fourth quarter. Analysts on average had expected sales of 48.72 million new iPhones, according to a poll by Fortune magazine.

Apple's sales in China nearly doubled to $12.52 billion, accounting for nearly a quarter of its total revenue.

The company's shares rose 2.6 percent in extended trading.

Apple posted record sales of its latest iPhones in the first weekend that they hit stores in late September as it included China sales for the first time.

Many analysts believe China is poised to replace the United States as Apple's biggest market.

Apple's net income rose to $11.12 billion, or $1.96 a share, in the quarter ended Sept. 26 from $8.47 billion, or $1.42 a share, a year earlier.

Sales rose about 22 percent to $51.50 billion.

REUTERS

Google headquarters in Mountain View, California. GETTY IMAGES

German publishers battle with Google over pay for articles

German publishers and Google have failed to resolve a row over whether the Web search leader should pay publishers to display their articles online, raising the prospect of a lengthy court battle.

The German patent and trademark office said arbitration proceedings between the publishers and Google had failed as they both objected to a settlement proposal put forward by the body's arbitration board.

At issue is the demand of publishers including Axel Springer, Germany's biggest newspaper publisher, that Google and other search engines pay to display their content. The publishers' case centers on an ancillary copyright law in force since August 2013.

"We will definitely go to court," said a manager at one publisher.

In the past decade, the media industry has often accused Google of making money at its expense by making its content freely available via Google News, YouTube and other services to drive audiences to view ads on Google sites. Google counters that the publishers already profit from advertising revenue generated through its sites. REUTERS

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Philadelphia - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

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Drone carrying drugs, hacksaw blades crashes at Okla. prison

A drone carrying mobile phones, drugs, hacksaw blades and other material dangling in a bundle from a fishing line crashed at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester before inmates could grab the contraband, prison officials said Tuesday.

The drone clipped razor wire on prison walls and lost control before crashing into prison grounds in what the officials said was the first attempt in the state to smuggle material into a prison with an unmanned aerial vehicle.

The package contained two hacksaw blades, a mobile phone, a mobile phone battery, a hands-free device, two packages of cigarettes, two packs of cigars, super glue, a 5.3-ounce bag of marijuana, a 0.8 ounce bag of methamphetamine and a bag of heroin weighing less than 1 gram.

A drone that was carrying a package that contained two hacksaw blades, a cellphone, a cellphone battery, two packages of cigarettes, a hands-free device, two packs of cigars, super glue, a 5.3-ounce bag of marijuana and a 0.8 ounce bag of methamphetamine. OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

"I applaud and commend the quick action and diligence on the part of the staff who noticed the UAV that entered the prison grounds," said Oklahoma Department of Corrections Director Robert Patton. McAlester is about 130 miles southeast of Oklahoma City.

Similar attempts to smuggle contraband by drones have taken place at prisons in other U.S. states.

In August, a drone dropped a package of heroin, marijuana and tobacco in the recreation yard of an Ohio prison, sparking a fight among inmates trying to pick up the contraband.

Last year, a drone was used to try to smuggle phones, marijuana and tobacco into a South Carolina maximum security prison, but it crashed outside the facility's walls.

The drone in the Oklahoma incident has been turned over to the Department of Corrections' office of the inspector general for further investigation. No arrests have been made. REUTERS

BRIEF

At least three Oklahoma parade crash victims in critical condition

Three adults struck by a car that plowed into an Oklahoma State University (OSU) weekend parade were in critical condition at an Oklahoma City hospital while the last three children under its care have been released, officials said Tuesday.

The group was among the eight people taken to the University of Oklahoma Medical Center, one of several facilities that treated people in the Saturday incident at the OSU homecoming parade that left four people dead and nearly 50 others injured.

The seventh patient treated at the Oklahoma City hospital was previously released. The eighth person was 2-year-old Nash Lucas, who died at the facility. A funeral for Lucas is planned for Wednesday in Weatherford, Oklahoma.

On Monday, an Oklahoma judge ordered that the suspect in the incident, Adacia Chambers, be held on $1 million bond on four counts of second-degree murder and granted a defense request that she be given a psychiatric examination.

Prosecutors said the 25-year-old woman acted deliberately by going around a barricade and ramming her Hyundai Elantra at high speed into the crowd. They also said one of the victims, who has not been identified, was "in fragile condition."

The crash scene GETTY IMAGES

A lawyer for Chambers said she suffers from mental illness and unsuccessfully asked for bail to be reduced.

Second-degree murder can bring a sentence ranging from 10 years to life in prison. Another hearing was set for Nov. 13.

The injured were treated at several hospitals in the state.

The emergency room at Stillwater Medical Center saw more than 40 cases Saturday in connection with the incident, with most of those patients treated and sent home the same day. REUTERS

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Nation to see lowest heating bills in years due to a glut in fuel

The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicted this month that households using natural gas as a heating fuel are likely to spend an average 10 percent less this winter than last, while those using heating oil could see bills down 25 percent to their lowest level since 2009.

Since then, energy futures have dropped even further. Natural gas touched a three-year low below $2 per million BTU this week, while heating oil dropped to around $1.43 a gallon, near their lowest level since the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis.

"The pass-through from wholesale to household is not quick, but over the long term these further declines will reach people," said EIA spokesman John Cogan, referring to this week's drop in futures prices.

Home heating oil GETTY IMAGES

About half of U.S. households use natural gas as a heating fuel, while less than a quarter — mainly concentrated in New England — use heating oil.

One of the main reasons for the reprieve is America's years-long drilling boom, which has topped up domestic supplies and helped tip energy markets into a price nose-dive.

The rise of fracking technology, which involves pumping water, sand and chemicals into a well to extract oil or gas, has helped lift U.S. production of natural gas by 35 percent since 2005 and oil by 45 percent since 2010.

The OPEC producer group led by Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, has kept price pressures low by leaving oil spigots open in an effort to retain global market share even as Chinese demand growth has slowed.

REUTERS

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FBI launches probe of violent arrest of black South Carolina student

Fields has been placed on administrative duties, meaning for now he will not patrol streets or work as a school resource officer, said sheriff's Lieutenant Curtis Wilson.

Ben Fields RICHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HANDOUT

A video screen grab from the incident TWITTER

Federal authorities said Tuesday they will investigate a white deputy's arrest of a black high school student in South Carolina, after video showed him slamming the teenager to the ground and dragging her across a classroom.

The actions by officer Ben Fields at Spring Valley High School in Columbia on Monday drew swift condemnation after video recordings of the incident were picked up by media outlets and posted on social networks.

The FBI and the Justice Department opened a civil rights probe of the arrest to determine if federal law was broken, the agencies said.

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott sought the independent investigations of the incident, which comes amid heightened scrutiny of the use of force by U.S. police, particularly against minorities.

A hashtag #AssaultAtSpringValleyHigh was trending nationwide within hours of the arrest, which also caught the attention Tuesday of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

Richland School District Two barred Fields from returning to any of its 40 schools during the investigation, and district officials said they would not tolerate behavior that jeopardized the safety of students.

> *"There is no excuse for violence inside a school."*
>
> Hillary Clinton tweeted

"The amount of force used on a female student by a male officer appears to me to be excessive and unnecessary," said James Manning, chairman of the Richland Two board of trustees.

Fields did not reply to an email request for comment.

The deputy has worked for the sheriff's office since 2004 and joined its school resource officer program in 2008, according to an agency newsletter. Last November, an elementary school where he also is assigned presented him with a "Culture of Excellence Award."

Fields "has proven to be an exceptional role model to the students he serves and protects," the newsletter said.

Lott told a local television station Fields went to a classroom Monday afternoon after a student refused a teacher's request to leave.

A video apparently recorded by another pupil shows Fields approaching the sitting girl, wrapping his arm under her chin and flipping her desk with her in it.

Fields then drags her from the chair and tosses her on the floor as students look on, before handcuffing her.

The girl, who does not appear to resist or argue, was arrested for "disturbing school" and released to her family, Wilson said.

A founding member of the Richland Two Black Parents Association said the group was saddened but not surprised. REUTERS

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Are store credit cards a good idea?

Dillard's American Express card has one of the lowest rates when it comes to store credit cards. ISTOCK

U.S. retailers dangle enticing bait to sign up for store-branded credit cards, but biting could be a costly decision for consumers.

A recent analysis of 64 cards from 42 retailers by CreditCards.com found that the average interest rate for a store-branded card is more than 23 percent. Jewelry chain Zales topped the list with a rate of 28.99 percent, followed by office supply store Staples at 27.99 percent. The average credit card has an interest rate of 15 percent. Matt Schulz, CreditCards.com's senior industry analyst, reveals the pitfalls and pluses for store-branded cards.

How do stores like Zales and Staples get takers for their cards? What tactics do they and other retailers use to entice consumers to apply?

Most retailers rely primarily on discounts at the checkout counter to entice people to apply for these cards, but it is important that people don't allow themselves to feel pressured. If you're interested in the card, say no, but take a brochure home with you and read up on the details. If the card still sounds good to you after you read up on it, apply the next time you go to that store. Chances are all the same perks that drew you in will still be there, but most important, you'll be making a much more informed decision.

What is the target audience the stores want to get to apply for the cards?

Many of these cards are about bringing customers back and building loyalty. I think that would be especially important for Staples, which thrives on repeat business from [buyers] of all types. However, even high-end department stores like Nordstrom and Macy's have tiered programs that reward frequent customers. Retail card rates are higher in part because of the risk involved. These cards are offered to a wide range of consumers, so interest rates have to be a bit higher to help deal with that risk.

Is it ever a good deal to go for the store-branded card? If so, when would it make sense?

Store-branded cards definitely can work for you, but only if you pay your balance off at the end of each month. If you never carry a balance, those 20 percent discounts that come with the card can lead to real savings. However, if you're paying 25 percent interest to get that 20 percent discount, the math clearly doesn't work in your favor.

When consumers are given offers for the cards, what should they be looking for in the fine print?

As with any credit card, APRs and fees are the most important things to understand. However, it's also important to know whether the card can be used anywhere or just with that retailer. They should also understand the rules surrounding any rewards or discounts that come with the card. For example, are there caps on how much you can earn? Are there minimum spending thresholds that you must reach?

REUTERS

The best choice out there

Are there any popular retailers that offer branded cards with a reasonable rate?

The best rate we saw was a 9.99 interest rate on the Dillard's American Express card. That's the low end of a range of possible APRs that top out at 24.99 percent. That range makes it very important that you understand what type of credit you have before you apply. After all, the last thing anyone wants is to think they're getting a 9.99 percent APR on their credit card and instead end up with a 24.99 percent APR.

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[2]Used car value determined by using the current NADA retail book value; new car value determined by using, MSRP.

[3]Borrowers may defer their first payment for up to 90 days from the date the auto loan is funded by Sb1. Interest accrued during the deferral period will be collected when the borrower begins repayment. Payments may be made during the deferral period.

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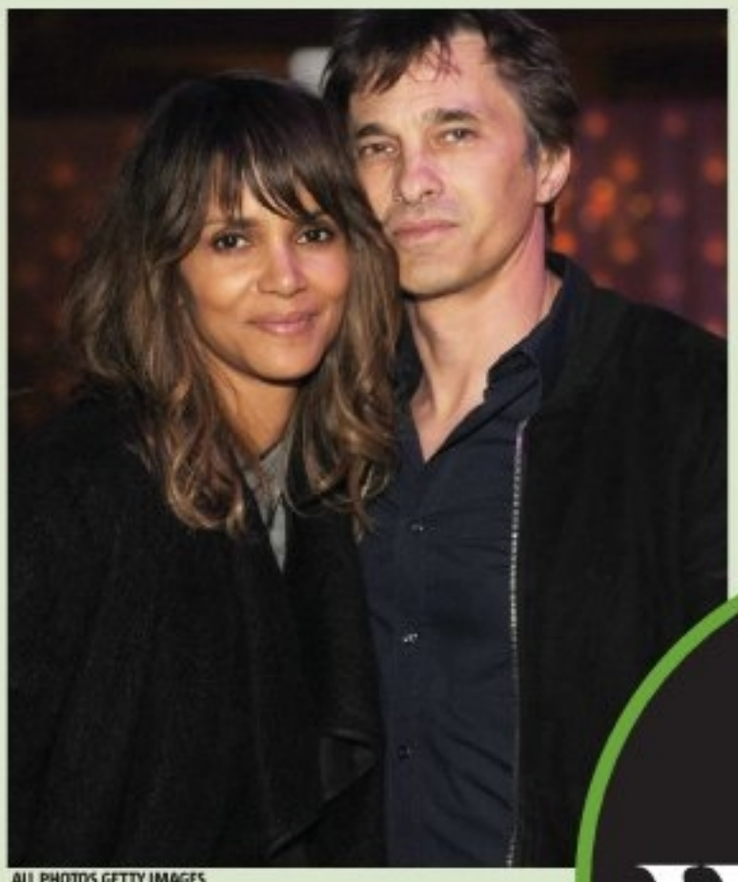
Halle Berry is getting a divorce



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Well, that's too bad. Halle Berry and French hubby Olivier Martinez are officially splitting up, according to TMZ. "It is with a heavy heart that we have come to the decision to divorce," the couple says in a statement. "We move forward with love and respect for one another and the shared focus for what is best for our son. We wish each other nothing but happiness in life, and we hope that you respect our and most importantly our children's privacy as we go through this difficult period." Don't worry about any potential money squabbles, though, as the couple totes had a prenup.

So what was it that sent the 2-year marriage over the edge? "They have a personality difference," a source says diplomatically. "They're just very, very different people. He's a very macho guy, and things just didn't jive." Speaking of, there was that whole incident at LAX recently where Martinez used their kid's car seat as a battering ram against a photographer, which resulted in a lawsuit last week. That suit, the source explains, prompted a fight that turned out to be the breaking point in the marriage.

the word

NED EHRBAR
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Gwen Stefani caught off-guard in interview

OK, Gwen Stefani, let's get real here. If during the course of your divorce from Gavin Rossdale you release a song called "Used to Love You" and go out to promote it, you can't act surprised when someone asks you whether the song is about, you know, Gavin Rossdale. But that's exactly what she did this week on the "Today" show. "Oh my God! Put me on the spot!" a visibly uncomfortable Stefani said when probed about the Rossdale connection. "I'm like, 'Whoa, whoa.'" What did you think was going to happen? Then she offered, "I wrote that song a couple weeks ago." So … yes?

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4 new celebrity pop-culture books to binge on now

Dishy tell-alls make up this week's star-studded releases.

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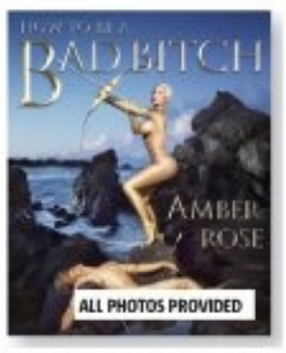
Reading high-brow novels like Garth Risk Hallberg's buzzy "City Of Fire" is worth carving out some time for, but sometimes you just want to curl up with something lighter. Luckily, there's no shortage of literary candy coming out.



"How To Be A Bad B—h" by Amber Rose *(released yesterday)*

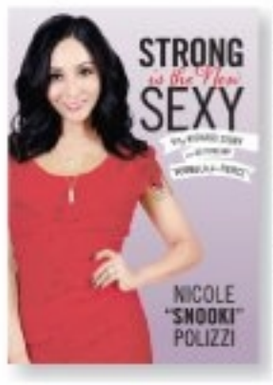
Amber Rose's definition of a "bad b—h" is "a self-respecting, strong female who has everything together. This consists of body, mind, finances and attitude; a woman who gets her way by any means necessary." The model and actress, who has dated Kanye West, Wiz Khalifa and current squeeze Machine Gun Kelly, offers her tips on how exactly to do all that in this book. She also tells her life story, starting from growing up in a rough part of Philly, and includes tons of never-before-seen photos.

"Kim" by Sean Smith *(released Oct. 20)*

Cosmopolitan recently dubbed the Kardashian-Jenner clan "America's First Family," and at its center is Kim Kardashian, not just a person but a multimillion-dollar franchise queen. Celebrity biographer Sean Smith takes readers through Kim's life and includes some little-known facts, offering a more behind-the-scenes glimpse than even the celebrity's infamous E! reality show.

"Wildflower" by Drew Barrymore *(released yesterday)*

"For some reason I had to write this book. I have become more private every year, and yet these stories were beating on the door of my heart screaming, 'Let me out,'" Drew Barrymore says in her memoir, "Wildflower." In it, she gives an honest look at her childhood and complicated relationship with her father, and highlights some of her worst talk show blunders. One thing's for sure, she didn't hold back while writing this one.



"Strong Is The New Sexy" by Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi *(released Oct. 13)*

Snooki went from being the crazy drunk party girl we all loved on "Jersey Shore" to a healthy, married mother. If you're a partier who wants to get your s–t together, you'll enjoy Polizzi's tips on everything from working out to locking it down with your S.O. Taking life advice from Snooki? How times have changed.

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Kristen Wiig: Queen of indies

The actress and her "Nasty Baby" director/co-star talk about their unusual new film.

MATT PRIGGE
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Kristen Wiig has spent the years since the megasuccess of "Bridesmaids" mostly involved in smaller, challenging, even dramatic independent films (plus the occasional blockbuster like "Anchorman 2" and "The Martian"). Her latest, after "Girl Most Likely," "Hateship Loveship" and "The Skeleton Twins," is "Nasty Baby," from Chilean filmmaker Sebastian Silva, who previously did "Crystal Fairy" and "Magic Magic," both starring Michael Cera.

In the film, Silva himself stars with Wiig as Freddy and Polly, two friends who, along with Freddy's boyfriend (TV on the Radio's Tunde Adebimpe), are trying to conceive a child. It plays like a nice and topical dramedy — until a bothersome neighbor (Reg E. Cathey), who has till then skulked about the sidelines, forces the third act in a frightening and shocking direction.

How did you two meet?

Sebastian Silva: We met on OK Cupid. I saw her on a floater in a really beautiful pool. She was holding a drink, and I was like, "Who is she?" No, we were introduced by Alia Shawkat [who's in the movie]. She knew I was looking for someone to play Polly, and she just saw this connection.

Your chemistry is important for the scenes, which seem to be partly improvised, or at least loose. What was the script like?

Silva: There was a 20-page outline where every action is fleshed out, and we knew exactly what needs to happen in every scene. It was not one of those "mumblecore" movies, where it's like, "OK, guys, action!" There were specific directions for each character in each scene. But no dialogue was written. We knew what information each of us had to convey in each scene, and we talked about how we were going to convey that.

GETTY IMAGES

Kristen, you have a long history of improv comedy. How was doing improv for a naturalistic drama?

Kristen Wiig: I'd never improvised a dramatic scene, really, let alone a whole film. It really forces you to figure out who your character is and what they think about every possible thing. Everything you say has to come from that perspective. It's very different from improvising comedy. With comedy, you have to stay in the realm of the scene and the character you're playing, while looking for jokes.

There are jokes here, though.

Wiig: I wouldn't say we were finding jokes. I'd say we were two people acting like they're having fun and joking around together. When you're with your friends, you have your own language, and you make each other laugh. But you're not necessarily trying to be funny. It's just natural.

Silva: It's normal, real fun. If a joke felt natural to the conversation, of course it's welcome. But if not, then it wasn't. I would never give a direction like, "OK, everyone, let's be fresh and funny."

The film has a jarring last act tonal shift. What has it been like watching that last act shift

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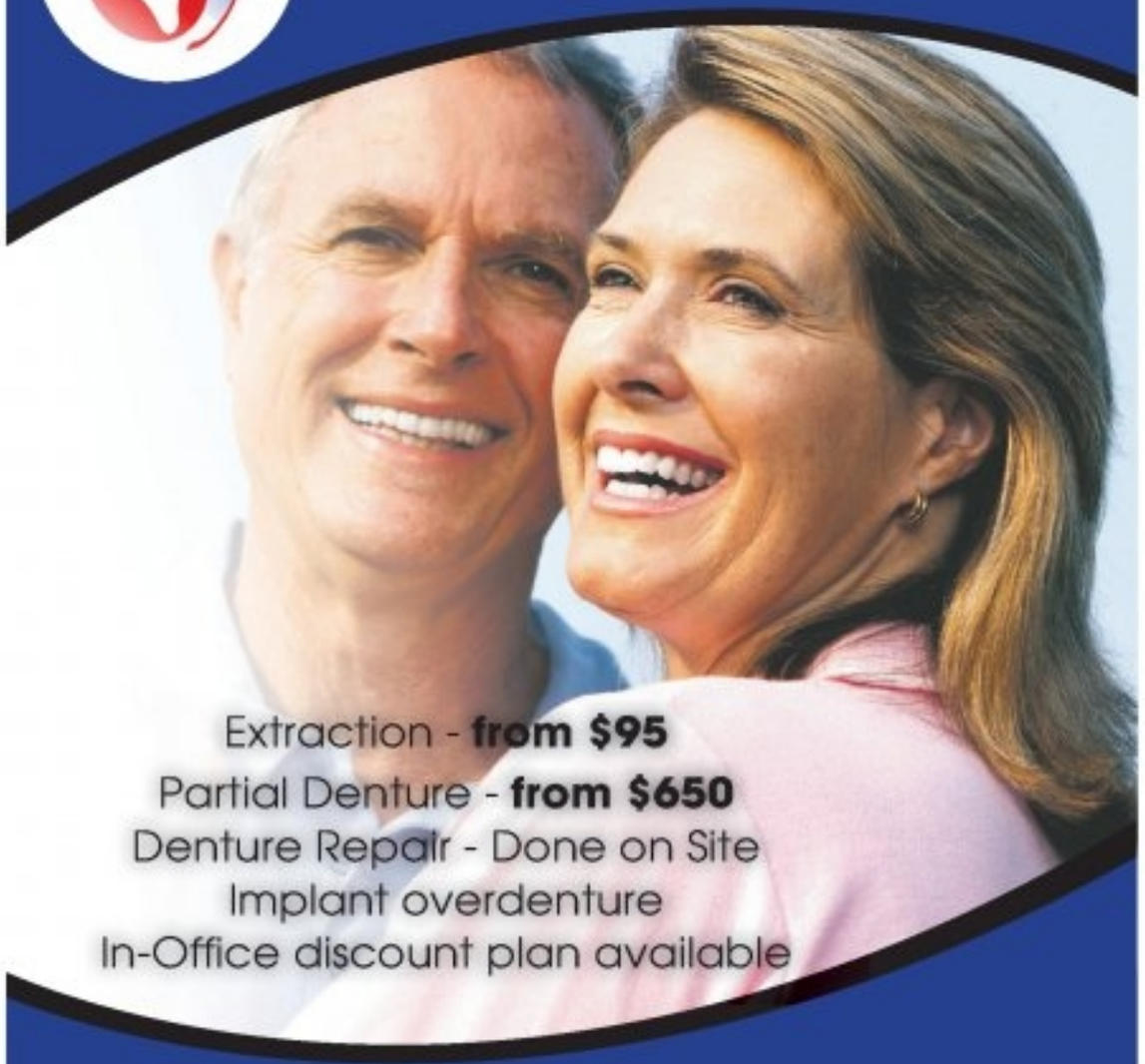

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In "Nasty Baby," on VOD starting Friday, Kristen Wiig and Sebastian Silva play friends trying to conceive a child while trouble brews. THE ORCHARD

with audiences?

Wiig: People will either say, "Why is it different?" or "I love that it's different." It makes sense in the world of the movie. And it's just such a different experience for the moviegoer, I think — to feel like you should hate someone you've liked for an hour and a half, then to see this horrible act, but kind of understand it, then to not know what happens. It's a very refreshing way to tell a story.

Staying small

Kristen, over the last few years, you've done more small and challenging films than, say, blockbusters. Has that been a specific goal or just something that happened?

Wiig: It's funny that people always think you make decisions that are really thought-out. [Laughs] I definitely did that with drama, though. I did want to do more dramatic roles. But ultimately you read and gravitate toward certain things and certain stories. And I love independent films. I love watching people make a movie happen, because it's really hard to get money and to get people to sign and do it. Most of the scripts I've read that I've felt really connected to have been small films. There's something really great about people coming together to make these films. The spirit of independent films is really attractive.

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Blanchett and Redford return to history

The stars of "Truth" say their film isn't a simple exoneration of Dan Rather.

MATT PRIGGE
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Obviously Robert Redford, star of "All the President's Men," has a lot to say about journalism. But Cate Blanchett, Redford's co-star in "Truth," is no slouch. "Truth" reassesses the firing of Dan Rather, played by Redford, over a "60 Minutes" story on George W. Bush's alleged military service — a report whose veracity was quickly, and perhaps sloppily, called into question. Blanchett plays Mary Mapes, the segment's producer, who went down with Rather.

Cate Blanchett's Mary Mapes confers with Robert Redford's Dan Rather in "Truth," out Friday, which tells of their downfall after a contested "60 Minutes" segment about George W. Bush's military service. SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Rather is still considered evil by some, and some have assumed this would be a simple exoneration of him and Mapes. But when you watch it, it's clear the film's position is that it's complicated.

Robert Redford: They made their mistakes. There's one scene where they get reamed out. That's terrific. That those flaws are in the film, that's a good thing.

Cate Blanchett: I don't think it was [the director's] nor the film's ambition to exonerate them. They're not held up as saints. It's reopening the closed book and saying, "Has this really been discussed? Have we really pulled this apart?"

As things look bad for them, Mary unravels. She's very human about it — and very grouchy too.

Blanchett: I think she oscillated between rage and despair. It's a journalist's worst nightmare that some fact wasn't fully checked.

Redford: And how hard it is to control yourself with those two emotions rolling around.

Blanchett: And particularly for Dan, because he had to maintain a composure and dignity and self-respect in front of the camera. Whereas Mary is behind the camera, feeling for the man she reveres and admires and is deeply connected to, feeling that somehow she's responsible for his downfall. That is the biggest cross she bears. There's also a sense of the toxicity of the political atmosphere — that as soon as you embark on analyzing politics or raising questions, it's attack politics. You get shut down, not only from a professional standpoint but also personally. Once it enters your personal arena, it's OK to go after your family and your sexuality and rumors — stupid stuff, like she and Dan were having an affair. I wish! [Laughs]

Redford: That part's been cut out of the film. It's too bad.

Blanchett: I like those sex scenes. I thought they were necessary.

Redford on journalism

This film has a lot say about what has changed in journalism since 2004.

Robert Redford: I believe journalism is essential for society, as I do art. I can't imagine a society without art. Journalism is, I think, vital, and somehow always under threat. If journalism threatens the powers that be, you have a problem.

GETTY IMAGES

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Heading to the Shore every weekend may be a thing of summer days past, but when Bobby Flay is showing you how to make brunch in November, you brave the ocean winds and get yourself to AC stat. The celebrity chef, along with several others, will be at Savor Borgata, the Atlantic City casino-hotel's annual food-filled weekend of cooking demos, dinners and workshops, plus a (indoor) street fair.

Savor shows off cuisines from the chefs represented at Borgata — from Flay's steakhouse to "Iron Chef" Geoffrey Zakarian's in-room dining at the Water Club tower — over Nov. 6 and 7, starting with a soldout tapas party Friday evening. In fact, unlike previous years, many of the events are already at capacity, but enough tickets are still available to make the quick jaunt worth it.

Two chefs will be competing for your attention Saturday afternoon. Michael Schulson, who has Sampan and Independence Beer Garden in Philly, is running a hands-on sushi-making class, complemented by plenty of sake, at his upscale Japanese restaurant Izakaya (make sure to come back for the edamame dumplings). Tickets are $49 at TheBorgata.com. Over at Borgata's Music Box theater, Flay will be demonstrating recipes from his new cookbook, "Brunch at Bobby's," and taking audience questions. Tickets are $25.

But the biggest draw is Saturday night's Street Eats: Savor the World festival, with table after table of inventive takes on international street fare from the chefs, more cooking demos, plenty of beer and wine, and music from Crazy in Stereo. Fox 29's "Good Day Philadelphia" co-anchors, Mike Jerrick and Alex Holley, will host. Tickets are $89, or splurge on VIP status ($139), which gets you in an hour earlier.

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Twyla Tharp looks ahead

The famed choreographer isn't focusing on the past for her 50th anniversary tour.

SHAUN BRADY
@MetroPhilly
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Twyla Tharp refers to her 50 years as a choreographer as "a bridge." That bridge has been graced by countless landmarks during a monumental half-century in the dance world.

Tharp has been a pioneer in the use of popular music, beginning with the Joffrey Ballet's "Deuce Coupe," set to the music of the Beach Boys, in 1973. She founded her own company in 1966, which merged with American Ballet Theatre in 1988, and she's choreographed films including Milos Forman's "Hair" and "Amadeus." She's won two Emmys and was named a Kennedy Center honoree in 2008.

For her 50th anniversary tour, however, Tharp chose not to look back over her considerable achievements, but to take stock of where they've brought her. "The question I asked this year was, 'What have you learned and how does it represent, as they're so fond of saying in theater, your journey?'" Tharp says. "It's not that I don't deal with the past. But it didn't seem to me that this occasion was best featured by revisiting the past."

The program Tharp will present at the Annenberg Center this weekend represents, she says, "the world as it ought to be and the world as it is," set to music by composers who have been significant throughout her work. One piece is "Preludes and Fugues," which uses pieces from Bach's "Well-Tempered Clavier" and was inspired by the 9/11 attacks. Her company had performed in the World Trade Center just three days before the towers fell.

"I was in the studio [the day after the attacks] going, 'Who's kidding whom here? This is a nation under attack and we're doing art? What are we thinking?' New York was obviously totally consumed by this event, everywhere it was WTC 1 and 2, and I said, 'Wait a minute, I know another WTC 1 and 2 — the Well-Tempered Claviers. There are answers here. There are reasons to do better than what we're seeing today, so let's get to work, shall we?'"

While she's not one to look back, Tharp also refuses to look forward. "The bridge goes from 1965 to right now," she concludes. "From there, it's up for grabs."

On the program

The second piece, "Yowzie," is set to early jazz tunes by Jelly Roll Morton, Fats Waller and other composers, performed by trumpeter Steven Bernstein, New Orleans pianist Henry Butler and their band, The Hot 9. The dance lightens the evening's mood from the heavier "Preludes and Fugues," with considerable use of humor.

ALL PHOTOS RUVEN AFANADOR

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Aries Pick up a pet as a companion or start a hobby. You have lots of talent, and with a little initiative you could start a lucrative side business.

Taurus Stand up for yourself if someone is being too demanding. You will disappoint yourself if you do too much for others.

Gemini If you are feeling stressed, figure out what changes you can make. Altering your lifestyle may be required to achieve peace of mind.

Cancer Become a leader. Your insightful ways of finding solutions will help you to make positive progress regardless of your goal.

Leo Don't neglect your responsibilities or someone will bring it to your attention. To avoid confrontations be diplomatic and patient.

Virgo Make a change. Consult with people in positions that interest you and find out what prerequisites are necessary to get moving.

Libra Temporary financial setbacks are apparent. Better times lie ahead if you set a budget that gives you better control over your money.

Scorpio A romantic encounter is evident. Stop worrying about what others think and make the most of your time by following creative pursuits.

Sagittarius Influential connections can be made if you attend industry functions. Don't be shy, and focus on your strengths.

Capricorn Arrange a get-together with people. Interaction in a recreational environment will help break down barriers.

Aquarius Start the home improvements that you have been contemplating. Making your surroundings more comfortable.

Pisces Join forces with people who are heading in a similar direction. Group ventures and will help you make positive changes. **EUGENIA LAST**

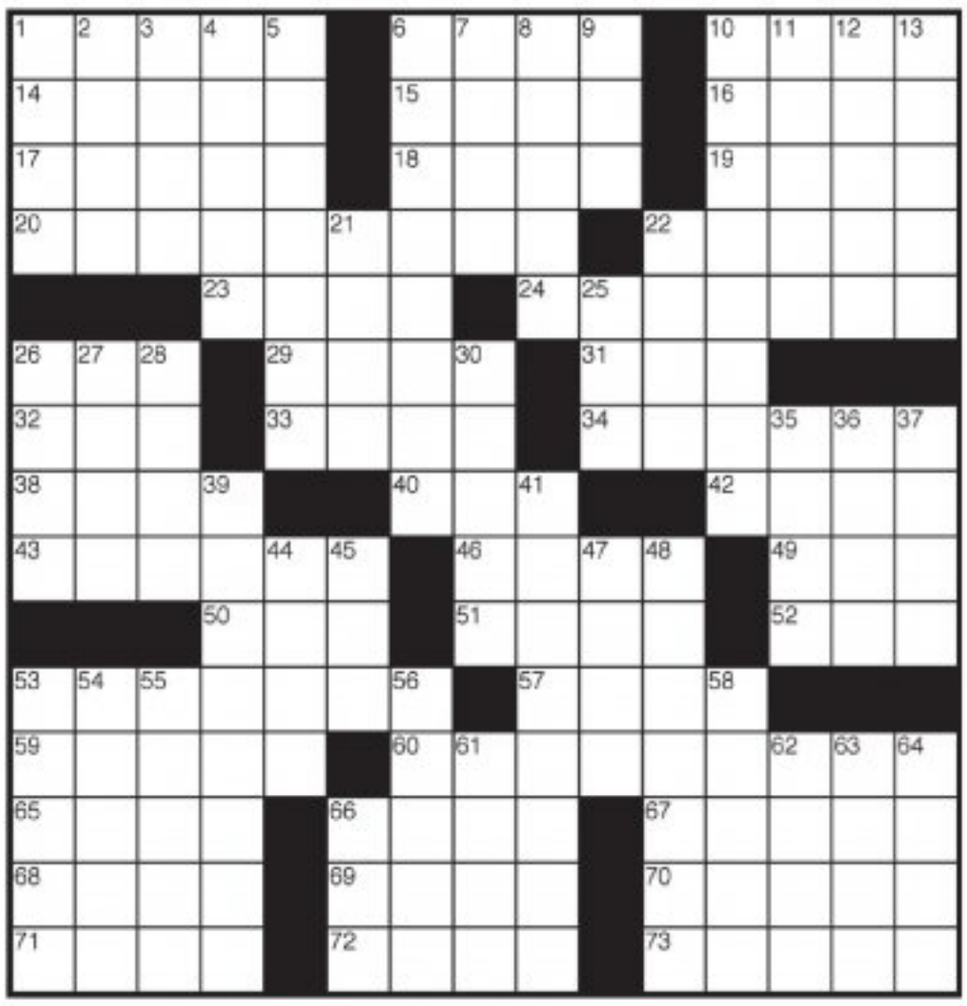
metro.us/crossword

Across

1 Lock horns
6 Hitch in plans
10 Tent site
14 Nouveau —
15 Parachute part
16 Kitchen emanation
17 Fire of the mind
18 Shacks
19 Pineapple island
20 Airy confections
22 Mocking
23 Prom rental
24 Dairy products
26 Hr. fraction
29 Prefix for second
31 Habit
32 — — always say...
33 Mr. LeMond
34 Paging device
38 Playing marbles
40 Gray-clad soldier
42 Retro art style
43 Dole out, as tasks
46 Joule fractions
49 Caught ya!
50 Cote murmur
51 Ms. Teasdale
52 RAM counterpart
53 Runoff
57 Mental faculties
59 Heavenly being
60 Leggy one
65 John, in Siberia
66 Pith helmet
67 "Bolero" composer
68 Double-dutch
69 Out of the gale
70 Great Lakes tribe
71 Tinted
72 Boo and hiss
73 Historic march setting

Down

1 Study hard
2 Euro casualty
3 "Moneytalks" group
4 Navigation hazard
5 Red – (false lead)
6 Tall beer glass
7 It may be proper
8 — -craftsy
9 Mdse.
10 Calculated
11 Robin of balladry
12 Saddle horse
13 Bluenoses
21 Gen. — Bradley
22 The chills
25 Moon or planet
26 Nursery word
27 Osiris' beloved
28 Pen points
30 Curved moldings
35 Lumpy fruit
36 Mountain refrain
37 Traipse
39 Revolted
41 Huskier
44 Objective
45 Festive quaff
47 Sandpaper texture
48 Jonathan Swift works
53 Clan leader
54 Diplomat
55 Wide open
56 Mademoiselle's school
58 Trunk contents
61 D'Artagnan prop
62 Like Mr. Hyde
63 Consider
64 Ms. Lanchester of film
66 — Mahal



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easy

	3	8	2		4		6	
		5				1	2	
			3			8		
		9			6	2		
6			5	8	2			1
		2	1			4		
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	9	3				7		
	2		8		7	9	3	

hard

	9		1		8			
6	1		4		7			
		8		6				
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	4		6		1		2	
2		7		5				8
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			8		5		9	2
			2		6		5	

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LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

How you (and your cat!) can find your dream apartment

Apartment hunting with a kitty takes work.

LAKSHMI GANDHI
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lakshmi.gandhi@metro.us

Cats are, by far, the most popular pet in the United States, with more than 88 million felines living in American homes across the country. Despite the fact that their owners are fiercely loyal to them, landlords and property owners don't always think so kindly of our feline friends, making apartment hunting with a cat a bit tougher than a normal search.

In honor of National Cat Day, which felines' loyal humans celebrate Thursday, we asked Niccole Schreck, Senior Brand Manager for Rent.com (and a cat owner), for her tips on how renters can find the perfect home for both them and their furry companions.

Look specifically for cat-friendly buildings

It seems obvious, but apartment hunters would save themselves from a lot of heartache if they concentrated on finding pet-friendly units from the outset. Luckily for cat owners, "there are a lot more restrictions for dogs than cats," notes Schreck. Rent.com has a cat-friendly filter that makes the process much easier.

Always start a conversation

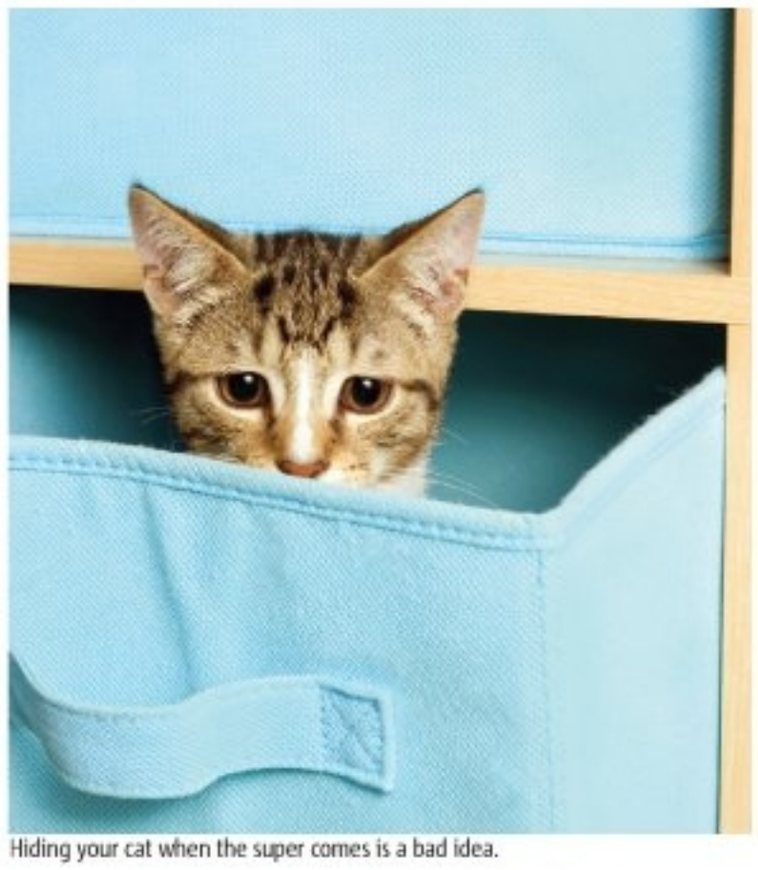
"You can talk to the property manager or landlord," says Schreck. "The No. 1 factor [that leads landlords to ban cats] is fear of damage to the unit. Obviously, cat urine is a smell that's almost impossible to get rid of. If you have an indoor/outdoor cat, they fear they will bring bugs or birds into the unit." A little assurance goes a long way.

Create a cat résumé

It may seem silly, but a "cat résumé" is a great tool to show landlords that you take their concerns seriously and also answers any questions they have about your pet. "You should always include a photo of your pet, along with your cat's name, weight and any medical information. For example: Is it spayed or neutered? Is your cat declawed?" In addition to being a convenient page for property managers to reference, "it also reassures the landlord you are taking this seriously."

Follow the rules

Whatever you do, says Schreck, don't even think of sneaking your cat into a building where pets are forbidden. "It's a really bad idea for a couple of reasons," she notes. "One, you are breaking a contract. A lease is a legal document, and not following it could lead to being fined or losing your security deposit — or even being evicted."



Hiding your cat when the super comes is a bad idea.

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Make old furniture new again

Theresa Clement of MyFixItUpLife turns castoffs from ReStore into treasures.

MADELINE PRESLAND
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Theresa Clement of MyFixItUpLife wants to take DIY to the next level — and to South Philly. The Ambler resident will host a repurposing workshop Nov. 21 at Point Breeze's ReStore.

"I go to the ReStore when I'm looking for something different and unique," says Clement of the Habitat for Humanity-run home improvement store/donation center. "It's like Target — you walk in just wanting a table and you walk out with so much more. But you don't spend more."

Clement takes on a makeover project every month, transforming a ReStore find. With the workshop, "instead of doing my own project in my own little world, I'm going to bring it to the world. … I want to share little things so we can geek out together," she says.

The little things include learning how to properly sand and use spray paints and power tools in makeover projects.

On MyFixItUpLife.com, Clement posts about transforming the pieces she comes across at ReStore, along with video tutorials. Recent finds include a midcentury dresser — that one received a bright makeover with spray paint — and a plain dresser rebuilt into a snazzy storage bench.

Hosting the "How To Repurpose Creatively" workshop onsite lets Clements work one-on-one with aspiring DIYers, instead of just talking to them through a video or the radio show Clement and her husband, Mark, host Tuesdays on interactive site Blab and Saturday mornings at 10 WCHE 1520AM. They often bring home improvement experts like Ty Pennington from "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" onto the show.

Old pallets get a new life as outdoor furniture. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Clement turned this old dresser into a bright bench with storage space.

Theresa Clement of MyFixItUpLife transforms pieces she finds at Habitat for Humanity's ReStore.

Where to go

The workshop is **Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** at **ReStore, 2318 Washington Ave.** Registration is required to score one of the 15 slots, and the **$15** fee covers the cost of materials.

"We want people to come in and see things that need a little TLC, be creative and make things better and new," says ReStore manager Greg Bradley. "It's a how-to of re-creating furniture."

Happy hour

If you're a young professional who would rather support Habitat for Humanity without building anything, there's a non-DIY option: The organization is raising funds the open-bar way, with the fifth annual Young Professional Habi-Hour, **Nov. 5** at **Ladder 15 (1528 Sansom St.)**.

Tickets are **$40** in advance and **$45** at the door, with proceeds going toward helping Habitat build and repair homes locally.

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Live in an egg-shaped home

A look at the micro-home prototypes, coming out next year. ALL IMAGES PROVIDED

Eco-capsule facts

Status. The prototype is complete and the team is preparing the production. Customized pods will be available at the end of 2016.

Dimensions. The pods are roughly 8 feet high, 14.5 feet long and 7 feet wide.

Services. They're outfitted with a kitchenette, toilet, hot shower, folding bed, dining area and a storage facility.

Live anywhere in this egg-shaped micro-abode, say the creators of the Ecocapsule, a low-energy sustainable house packed into a compact form. The microhome, designed by the Bratislava, Slovakia-based Nice Architects studio, powers itself through solar cells that cover the roof and a retractable 750W wind turbine. MWN

"Our team thought of people that relate to nature, but it could be for almost everybody. It has caught the imagination and reminded people of childhood dreams."

Igor Zacek, CEO and co-founder of Ecocapsule

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76ers growing pains continue

The Sixers may have another year of last place ahead, but they could have as many as four first-rounders next June.

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sports@metro.us

More lows than highs likely lie ahead for the young and rebuilding Sixers in 2015-16 GETTY IMAGES

The 76ers will open their regular season tonight at Boston.

It's likely to be the beginning of an arduous 82-game marathon.

After compiling only 37 victories in the past two seasons combined, the Sixers aren't expected to win very much again.

There are a possible four – count 'em, four – first-round draft picks on the way in the 2016 NBA Draft. With a number of conditions looming, it's impossible to predict where those picks will fall.

But that's at the end of the 2015-16 season. It begins tonight against the upstart Celtics.

"I know what people are saying, that they don't expect much from us," said forward Jerami Grant. "We keep putting in good days like coach [Brett Brown] says all the time. We want to keep developing and keep improving. We don't really listen to anything said on the outside. Everything comes within here. We're going to put in the work."

There is hope, though, and it starts down low with the pairing of Nerlens Noel and No. 3 overall pick Jahlil Okafor.

Surely, there will be growing pains as the season progresses. Watching how this duo coexists should be must-see viewing this season.

"He's a big body, and it's great for me to be playing with someone like that," Noel said of Okafor. "It's much different than playing with others. I'm very excited about it. He's someone who knows the game and has so much ability. Jah is definitely a great player and will get better every day here. I think it brings us to a new level here, and it's a another block to be built here."

An already thin team in terms of depth has been besieged with injuries, most notably to shooting guard Nik Stauskas, forward Robert Covington and point guard Tony Wroten. There are other injuries as well, and it only makes an already challenging season that much tougher.

Brown said at the end of last season that winning would be very important in his third season on the Sixers sideline.

There don't appear to be too many victories in the immediate future.

"I don't backpedal from any of it," Brown said during a meeting with reporters before training camp. "I remember my comments well, and why wouldn't it be? It has to be something. We're not downplaying the importance of winning. That's why we all sort of do our job. I don't believe that that is our complete report card. I still don't believe that our judgment day is here yet. We are still in the growth of identifying people and growing people, but we are extremely competitive. I am extremely competitive like all NBA coaches and so we do want to get more wins. We do want to grow our own. How can we not?"

Phils embrace age of analytics with Klentak's hiring

The Phillies have replaced Ruben Amaro with a new GM, and he's just 35 years old.

ED CONDRAN
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Matt Klentak Screen shot from CSN Philly

Is Maikel Franco a franchise player? New Phillies GM Matt Klentak sure hopes so. GETTY IMAGES

Matt Klentak said all the right things when he was introduced as the 11th general manager in the Phillies long history.

"I have very ambitious goals," Klentak said. "I want to win. When is going to be dictated by the players. The game isn't about the guys who wear ties and sit at the table."

But it is about those guys when it comes to acquiring the right players. That's why Klentak, 35, was flanked by his mentor Andy MacPhail and John Middleton, who believe that the Dartmouth alum will help the Phillies turn around a team which finished the 2015 season with the worst record in baseball.

Middleton wants to catch up with the rest of baseball in the analytics department. The suddenly visible billionaire owner believes Klentak, who has worked with the Orioles, Rockies and Angels, can bring the Phillies into the 21st century. MacPhail, who worked with Klentak in Baltimore, agrees with Middleton, who raves about Klentak.

"We found an executive with the keen ability to understand cutting-edge baseball analytics, coupled with superior scouting, player development and leadership skills," MacPhail said.

Klentak will have his work cut out for him but as he notes, there is reason for optimism and he's correct. The former college shortstop described the Reading Phillies as "loaded." Klentak is looking forward to the first selection in the June draft and the first pick in the Rule 5 draft. He also has an ownership that has deep pockets and a desire to win.

Don't expect the Phillies to go crazy once the hot stove season commences, but that should change at this time next year.

"I've worked in Baltimore, and that was more of a rebuilding time," Klentak said.

It took a few years but the Orioles drafted and developed players. Baltimore has won more regular season games over the last four years than any team.

And then there are the two teams, who are participating in the Fall Classic.

"Look at what's on display in the World Series right now," Klentak said. "Two clubs [the Mets and the Royals] who have gone through very disciplined rebuilds, two clubs that have had very different time frames for doing it. It's important to realize that the players will dictate that."

Rebuilds can be quick, thanks to those making the behind-the-scenes decisions. The Houston Astros won 51 games in 2013. Just two seasons later, the Astros prevailed 86 times during the regular season.

The Cubs won 66 games in 2013 and they improved on that with 31 more wins this season.

But Klentak is correct, it's the players, who will dictate the team's success.

Klentak and the Phillies are on the clock.

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NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Patriots (6-0)

With Dion Lewis unable to play and the Jets imposing defense in town, the Patriots answer for how to run the ball was simple: Don't. The NFL's most creative team opted for the NFL's simplest answer: put the weight on Tom Brady's shoulders.

No. 2

Packers (6-0)

A quiet week at the top of the rankings starts here. That won't be the case this week when Green Bay travels to Denver for a matchup of unbeatens. Struggling Eddie Lacy will have a hard challenge getting on track against an outstanding Broncos defense.

No. 3

Bengals (6-0)

Even a bye week is a win for the undefeated Bengals. The Steelers, Ravens, and Browns all lost. Cincinnati's division lead is now 2.5 games on Pittsburgh and it'll get a chance to stretch it further when it resumes play next week with a huge game in Pittsburgh.

No. 4

Broncos (6-0)

Denver's defense will face its biggest test yet when Aaron Rodgers comes to town in a battle of undefeated teams in Week 8. If the "D" is going to carry Denver through the playoffs and to the championship, this is exactly the kind of game it'll have to win.

No. 5

Panthers (6-0)

Two victories against two preseason Super Bowl favorites has to carry some weight. Offensive options besides Cam Newton are starting to emerge as well: Jonathan Stewart had 125 rushing yards Sunday, his highest output of the season, and Cam only carried the ball four times.

No. 6

Cardinals (5-2)

Chris Johnson's renaissance has continued even after Andre Ellington's return to the lineup. Johnson's 122 yards against Baltimore were his highest total since 2013 and his third 100-yard game through the first seven games of 2015, already matching the number he had in 2013 and 2014.

No. 7

Jets (4-2)

The Jets did all they could in New England. It wasn't enough. That doesn't take away from what is establishing itself week in and week out as one of the better teams in the NFL. The biggest concern from the Pats game? The disappearance of Chris Ivory, who had only 41 yards.

No. 8

Vikings (4-2)

Rookie fifth-rounder Stefon Diggs is coming through weekly for the Vikings, with at least 87 yards in each of the last three contests. Having a weapon other than Adrian Peterson is vital if the Vikings are going to overcome deficits like the 17-6 hole they found themselves in against Detroit.

No. 9

Falcons (6-1)

The Falcons are still winning, but not quite in the convincing fashion with which they began the season. Matt Ryan's yards per attempt from Week 1 through Week 4 trended between 7.9 and 9.5. During the three games since then, he has topped out at 6.7 yards per attempt.

No. 10

Steelers (4-3)

This was the kind of week you'd expect when a team is down to its third quarterback. The Steelers' defense allowed 110 rushing yards to Charcandrick West, but this was never a Steelers team expected to win because of its defense. It will be a huge boost if Ben Roethlisberger is able to return next week.

No. 11

Rams (3-3)

Todd Gurley is everything the Rams hoped for when they drafted him. In three games as the starter he has 433 yards on the ground and is showing no signs his college injury, the only question on draft day, is holding him back. Nick Foles has not reached 200 yards passing in a game since Week 1.

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No. 12

Seahawks (3-4)

Winning last week against the 49ers might be a vital victory as the Seahawks attempt to catch the Cardinals in the NFC West. No miracle fourth-quarter comebacks are a start for the defense. If they can follow through with a win against Dallas next week, they'll enter the bye at 4-4.

No. 13

Dolphins (3-3)

Through the first four games of the season, the Dolphins scored a total of 65 points. In two games under Dan Campbell, they've scored 82. Lamar Miller and Ryan Tannehill (who was 18 for 19 last week) have been the primary beneficiaries, along with the Dolphins' win column.

No. 14

Colts (3-4)

Andrew Luck almost pulled off one of his better fourth-quarter comebacks, but that doesn't absolve the problems that have bee everywhere this year. He has only one game without throwing at least two interceptions, and exactly zero games with a completion percentage above 60.

No. 15

Raiders (3-3)

The Raiders' quarterback is showing all the kinds of progress you want to see: after four multiple interception games in his first 12 career starts, Derek Carr has none in his last eight. It helps having Amari Cooper in the fold: The rookie is 19th in the NFL this season with 519 receiving yards.

No. 16

Eagles (3-4)

The good news for Philadelphia is they have playmakers: Ryan Mathews now leads the NFL in yards per carry (6.1) among qualifiers after his 63-yard scamper against the Panthers. The bad news is the coaches don't seem interested in using him. He's 38th in attempts with 55.

The bottom feeders

- **17 — Saints (3-4):** Suddenly, the Saints have a renewed commitment to the running game. Mark Ingram ran for double his previous season high Sunday against Indy.
- **18 — Giants (4-3):** The Giants are in first in the NFC Least thanks to a win over the Cowboys Sunday night. They pounced on Dallas turnovers despite being outgained by more than 100 yards.
- **19— Bills (3-4):** Buffalo is hoping to use their upcoming bye week to find a way to get back to being the team that kick-started the Colts' misery.
- **20— Bears (2-4):** Chicago plays division rival Minnesota next week after a much-needed bye. If the defense wants to earn back the moniker "Monsters of the Midway," stopping Adrian Peterson will be a good start.
- **22 — Redskins (3-4):** In Washington's four defeats this season, Kirk Cousins has thrown eight interceptions. In three victories, he has thrown zero.
- **23 — Chiefs (2-5):** Kansas City took advantage of Landry Jones to jump-start their defense, and possibly their season in Week 7.

NFL

Kelly, Eagles keeping things positive heading into bye week

The Eagles dropped back below .500 with their disappointing 24-16 loss to the undefeated Panthers Sunday night.

But with the Cowboys next, and then a trio of (relatively) easy games against the Dolphins, Buccaneers and Lions ahead, Chip Kelly is keeping it positive.

In fact, he's choosing to take some signs of partial success in the Eagles 3-4 start as a sign of good things to come.

"I told our guys after the game [Sunday night] I think we are a good football team," Chip Kelly said to the media prior to the Eagles eight-day break. "We just need to clean things up."

Penalties and dropped passes were Philly's undoing against Carolina, the same things that have haunted the team through seven weeks. But it's still early.

"We're right in the middle of everything and so is everybody else," Kelly said. "It's literally a one-game season as you keep going, and did you do good enough to win on Sunday, or did you lose on Sunday? And then you assess it, take a look at the film, make the proper corrections and then get ready to play the next opponent." EVAN MACY

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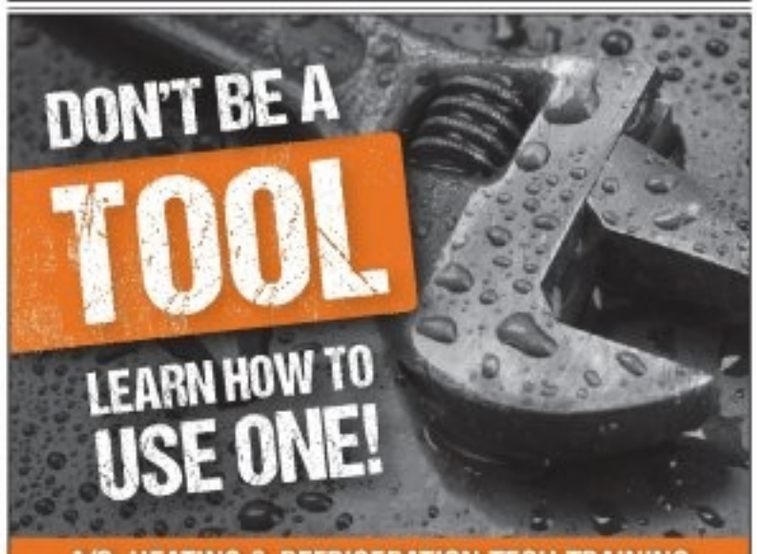

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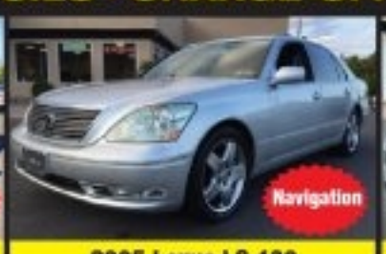

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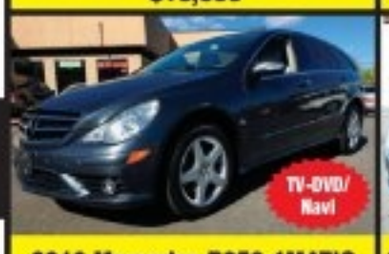

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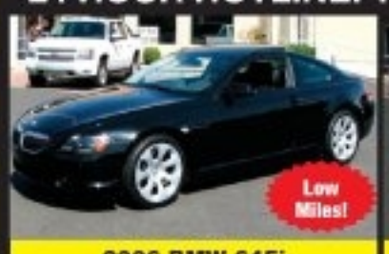

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